

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 92-293-C - ORDER NO. 92-671 ✓
SEPTEMBER 1, 1992

IN RE: Application of Southern Bell Telephone)	ORDER APPROVING
and Telegraph Company for Approval of)	INDUSTRIAL
Revisions to its General Subscriber)	DEVELOPMENT
Service Tariff (Tariff No. 92-92))	TARIFF

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of a Tariff filing on May 7, 1992 on behalf of Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company (Southern Bell or the Company) requesting approval of revisions to its General Subscriber Service Tariff. According to the filing, the purpose of the request is to make available waivers and discounts on certain telecommunications services for qualifying business in South Carolina. According to the filing, this offering is made to complement and supplement the public policy of South Carolina as set forth in S.C. Code Ann., §12-7-1220 (Supp. 1991) to stimulate growth and encourage economic development in the State. The matter was duly noticed to the public and a Petition to Intervene was filed on behalf of Steven W. Hamm, Consumer Advocate for the State of South Carolina (the Consumer Advocate).

Thereafter, a public hearing was duly held in the Commission's Hearing Room on Wednesday, August 5, 1992, the Honorable Henry G. Yonce presiding. Southern Bell was represented by William F. Austin, Esquire, and Harry M. Lightsey, III, Esquire; the Consumer Advocate was represented by Elliott F. Elam, Esquire; and the Commission Staff was represented by Marsha A. Ward, General Counsel. W.T. Bateman, Manager, Economic Development, for Southern Bell testified on behalf of the Company. Additionally, five (5) public witnesses testified in support of the tariff. They were Michael Eades, Mark Farris, John C. Hankinson, Jr., John Frazer, and Frank R. Ellerbe, Jr.

The Commission has considered the testimony and evidence presented in this case. In light thereof, the Commission makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. That the proposed tariff was developed to compliment legislation enacted by the South Carolina General Assembly, specifically S.C. Code Ann., §12-7-1220 (Supp. 1991), which provides tax credits to businesses that create new jobs in certain counties. If a business qualifies to receive the job tax credits pursuant to the legislation, that business will qualify to receive the incentives offered under Southern Bell's tariff.

2. Pursuant to the tariff of Southern Bell, the qualifying businesses will receive the following: 100% waiver of normal deposits for telephone service, credit of initial service connection and installation charges after service has been

installed for one year, and discounts ranging from 15% to 50% of monthly recurring charges on all Southern Bell tariffed items for a period of twelve (12) months, other than Exempted Special Arrangements-\$A5, Special Assembly, local usage charges, and long distance services, which the business enterprise can demonstrate to be directly related to the new or expanded employment. These discounts and waivers will become effective after service has been installed for twelve (12) months. These incentives will be effective for twelve (12) months.

3. In order to receive such wavier of charges, the business enterprise is required to certify that it has met the requirements of Southern Bell's tariff offering, as well as the requirements of §12-7-1220.

4. Consistent with §12-7-1220, qualifying businesses in "less developed" counties will receive a 50% discount; qualifying businesses in "moderately developed" counties will receive a 30% discount; and qualifying businesses in "developed" counties will receive a 15% discount.

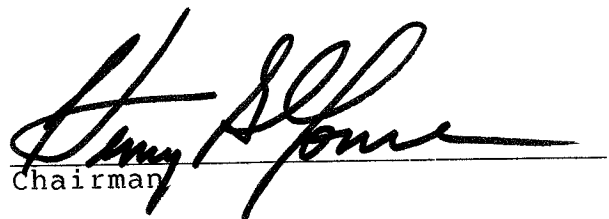
5. The Company was unable to quantify the amount of revenues affected by this proposal, nor could the Company inform the Commission as to the impact on Southern Bell's revenues in Georgia where a similar tariff is already in effect.

6. The Commission is concerned about the lack of information regarding the revenue impact on the Company's revenues approval of this tariff will have. While the Commission has the authority to approve such a proposal, the Commission is hesitant

to give carte blanc approval absent such information. Therefore, the Commission will approve the proposed tariff being offered to qualified businesses in South Carolina, but will hold in abeyance any determination of ratemaking treatment until such time as a rate proceeding or other appropriate review is held. At that time, the Commission will examine the impact of the tariff on the Company's revenues, expenses, and investment and make its determination as to the appropriate ratemaking treatment to be afforded.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)